

WTG-TV
and various stations
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ON BUYING INFORMATION

Participants: Mike Wallace, Moderator.
William Bradford Huie, free lance writer.
David Schoenbrun of CBS News.
Marguerite Higgins of the N.Y. Tribune.
A. J. Liebling, New Yorker Magazine.

THE PARTICIPANTS WERE SEEN ON THE TV SCREEN.

WALLACE: "Every reporter has a personal technique to help them to bring in a story. Bill Huie, you've had a good many exclusives. What's been the key for you?"

HUIE: "The key for me, Mike, is independence. I don't work for anybody except myself, and I have a small group of readers around the world, and when I go over for a story, whether it's a story like the execution of Private Slevich or the Ira Hayes story or the Emmett Till story, I'm independent. I don't have to report to anybody. I can go—I'm a member of the lodge. I can sit down and get drunk with people. Above all, I carry my own money and there aren't many people—there aren't many reporters who carry money around any more."

WALLACE: "You say, '...above all...' you carry your own money. What's that get to do with anything?"

HUIE: "Well, if you want somebody to talk to you, why sometimes you have to pay them, and I'm one of the few people, I suppose, in the business who still pays people."

WALLACE: "You mean you bribe your way into a story?"

HUIE: "Yes. Call it whatever you like. I'm one of the people who is in favor of bribery. The British intelligence controlled the world pretty well for almost 300 years by bribing a lot of people; they didn't fight everybody. And down south we come up and we learn pretty early that there's so many rascals in the world that it's a lot easier to buy some of them instead of fight them all, so I just fight a few and pay the rest of them."

WALLACE: "Anybody who takes issue with this gentleman?"

SCHOENBRUN: "Oh, it'd take the rest of your program to take issue with Huie on that one. I'm personally against bribery, not only for moral reasons—I don't think it's good, raised to believe it wasn't good, and I believe it isn't. But I think that when you buy things that you don't necessarily get the truth or the story that you're after. If people knew you have money around and you're going to spread it around, they'll sell you information, and you mentioned British intelligence. Yes, they do send a lot of money around. They also get a lot of very bad information."